

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-9. (Withdrawn)

Claims 10-13 (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A hand-held instrument comprising:

(a) a business end;

(b) a handle attached to the business end, the handle having a gripping portion and a longitudinal axis, a thumb spur being provided at the gripping portion of the handle, the thumb spur being disposed such that it projects away from the handle in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the handle; and

(c) a chrysalis comprising a sheet of flexible material, the chrysalis being wrapped around the gripping portion of the handle and being secured to the handle by the thumb spur.

15-20. (Withdrawn)

21. (New) The handheld instrument of claim 14 wherein the sheet of flexible material is sufficiently large such that the hand of a user gripping the handle of the instrument touches only the chrysalis and the thumb spur.

22. (New) The handheld instrument of claim 14 wherein the sheet of flexible material is padded.

23. (New) The handheld instrument of claim 14 wherein the thumb spur projects away from the handle by a distance of less than 4 inches.

24. (New) The hand-held instrument of claim 14 wherein the thumb spur has a central portion which comprises an elastomeric material.

25. (New) The hand-held instrument of claim 14 wherein the thumb spur is removably attached at the gripping portion of the handle.

26. (New) The hand-held instrument of claim 14 wherein the thumb spur is removably attached to the gripping portion of the handle by a quick release attachment device.

27. (New) The hand-held instrument of claim 26 wherein the quick release attachment device comprises a male connection pin and wherein the gripping portion of the handle is provided by at least one female receptor capable of accepting and firmly retaining the male connection pin.

28. (New) The hand-held instrument of claim 27 wherein the gripping portion of the handle is generally oval in cross-section, having a pair of narrow end surfaces and a pair of wide opposed side surfaces, and wherein a female receptor is disposed in at least one of the wide side surfaces.